

PRESS RELEASE

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WOMEN SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR SMUGGLING FOUR ILLEGAL ALIEN CHILDREN

TUCSON, Ariz. – Kimberly Antoinette Holmes, DOB 05/10/67, of San Manuel, Ariz. and Rosalia Annie Aguirre, DOB 02/8/84, of Tucson, Ariz. were each sentenced on January 6, 2005 to 15 months in prison to be followed by 2 years supervised release, by U.S. District Judge David C. Bury, in Tucson, Ariz. The defendants had pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Transport Illegal Aliens in violation of Title 8, U.S. Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I), 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), and 1324(a)(1)(B)(i), a felony, on August 2, 2004.

On May 3, 2004, Holmes and Aguirre attempted to enter the U.S. from Mexico at the Grand Avenue Port of Entry in Nogales, Ariz. Holmes was driving a vehicle with Aguirre as her front-seat passenger. In the vehicle were four minor children from four to 10 years old. Holmes falsely claimed that the children were her own and that they were U.S. citizens. Aguirre also stated that the children were U.S. citizens.

Upon further inspection and when questioned by authorities, Holmes admitted that the children were not hers and that she was trying to smuggle them into the U.S. The children were going to be delivered to their father who was to be waiting at an unknown location in Tucson, Ariz. Aguirre stated that she had arranged to pick up the children in Mexico and had solicited the assistance of Holmes in this endeavor. They were both to be paid between \$500 and \$1000 for transporting each child to Tucson. Neither of the defendants knew the parents of the children.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in Nogales, Ariz. The prosecution was handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-1173-TUC-DCB

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